



**image**

**7**

MAR

\$1.95

\$2.65  
Canada

TM

# MAX

VS

# DITTY

TM



# **image**™

## **COMICS PRESENTS**

# **THE MAXX**™

Story • Art

**SAM KIETH**

Swell Dialogue

**BILL MESSNER-LOEBS**

Finishes

**JIM SINCLAIR**

Lettering

**MIKE HEISLER**

Color

**STEVE OLIFF  
& OLYOPTICS**

Logo

**CHANCE WOLF**

Film Output

**KELL-O-GRAPHICS**

### **FOR IMAGE COMICS:**

Exec. Director

Publisher

Promotions

Distribution

Art Director

Assistant to Exec. Director

Production

Traffic Coordinator

Controller

**LARRY MARDER**

**TONY LOBITO**

**KYLE ZIMMERMAN**

**GERMAINE ZACHARIAH**

**DOUG GRIFFITH**

**KELLY VAN LANDINGHAM**

**TERESA CESPEDES**

**RONNA COULTER**

**JOHN COGAN**

### **OLYOPTICS IS:**

**ABEL MOUTON**

**TRACEY ANDERSON**

**ROBYN ROBERSON**

**CATHY ENIS**

**PATTI STRATTON JORDAN**

**KIRK MOBERT**

**QUINN SUPLEE**

**WILLIAM ZINDEL**

**LEA RUDE**

**MARIE**

THE MAXX #7 March 1994, FIRST PRINTING. An Image Comics title published by Image Comics. Entire contents TM & © Sam Kieth 1994, all rights reserved. Any similarities to persons living or dead is purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Sam Kieth. The Maxx is copyrighted by Sam Kieth and not by Viacom or MTV or any other giant conglomerate. Send correspondence to: Sam Kieth, 4363 Hazel Avenue, Suite 1-285, Fair Oaks, California, 95628. Publishers and creator assume no responsibility for unsolicited materials.

Printed in Canada







MAXX! ARE YOU OUT THERE? THE BATHROOM DOOR IS STUCK, MAXX! ARE YOU ASLEEP? MAXX...!

YOU KNOW, JULIE, I HAVE THE STRANGEST FEELING. LIKE I FORGOT SOMETHING BACK AT THE HOUSE.

PROBABLY NOTHING IMPORTANT.

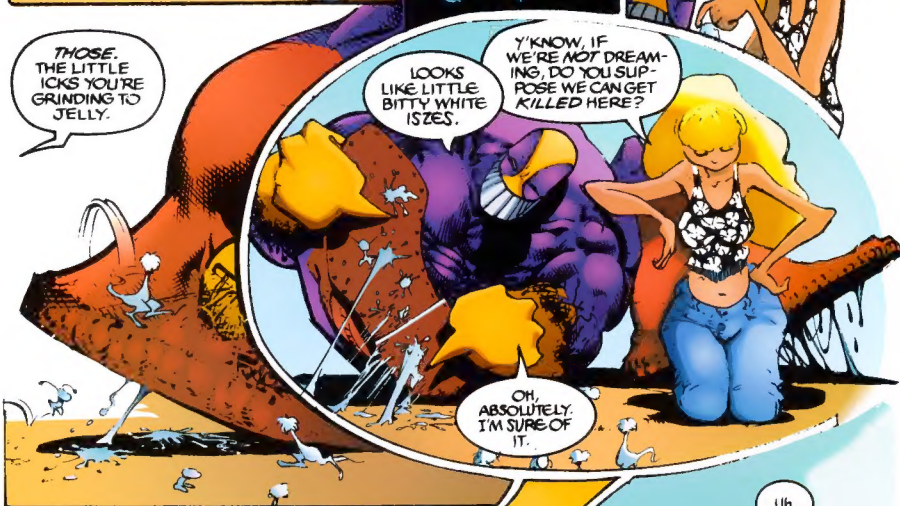
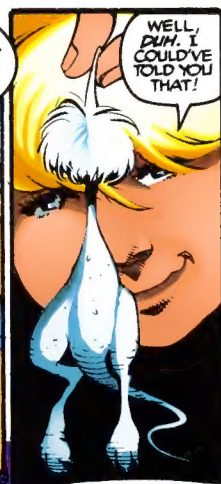
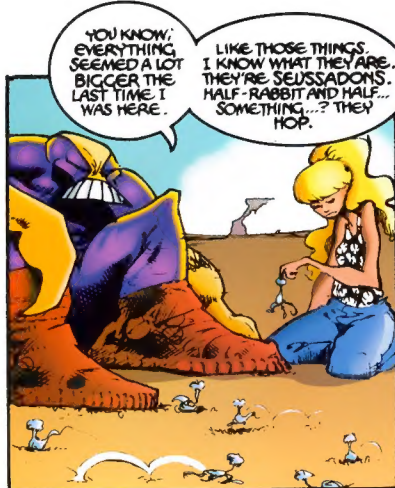
YEAH. WELL, THIS IS IT. THE OUTBACK. THE PLACE I'VE BEEN TELLIN' YOU ABOUT ALL THESE MONTHS. THE PLACE YOU SAID WAS A FIGMENT OF MY DISEASED BRAIN. AND NOW YOU'RE HERE. YOU CAN SEE IT. YOU'RE STANDING RIGHT HERE...

AND I SUPPOSE NOW YOU EXPECT ME TO FALL ON MY KNEES AND BEG YOUR FORGIVENESS FOR EVER HAVING DOUBTED YOU?

UM...NOT IN SO MANY WORDS. AND CERTAINLY NOT IN THAT TONE OF VOICE.

GOOD, 'CAUSE I'M HAVING A BAD DAY.







GUESS  
AGAIN.





TIMMY!  
WHERE'S  
TIMMY?

HE WAS MY  
ONLY FRIEND AND  
NOW HE'S GONE!  
AND YOU KNOW  
SOMETHING! YOU  
TOOK HIM!

GIVE  
HIM  
BACK!

HEY!

WELL,  
JULIE'S MY  
ONLY FRIEND!  
AND IF YOU  
HURT HER  
I'LL....

WILL YOU  
GUYS

**KNOCK  
IT  
OFF!**

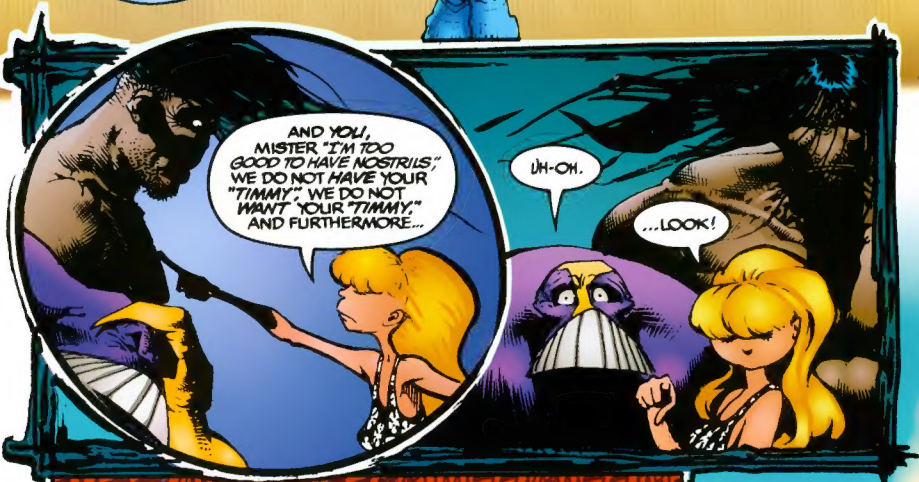
GEEZ!



THIS IS SUPPOSED  
TO BE, LIKE, MY CHANCE  
TO WORK THROUGH A  
BUNCH OF CATHARTIC  
CRAP!

I DIDN'T COME  
HERE TO HAVE YOU  
GUYS SCREW IT UP  
BY ACTING LIKE A  
COUPLE OF FOSTER  
CHILDREN FOR  
TESTOSTERONE  
POISONING!

TRUST ME,  
THIS IS NOT  
SCORING YOU  
POINTS!



AND YOU,  
MISTER "I'M TOO  
GOOD TO HAVE NOSTRILS"  
WE DO NOT HAVE YOUR  
"TIMMY" WE DO NOT  
WANT YOUR "TIMMY,"  
AND FURTHERMORE...

UH-OH.

...LOOK!



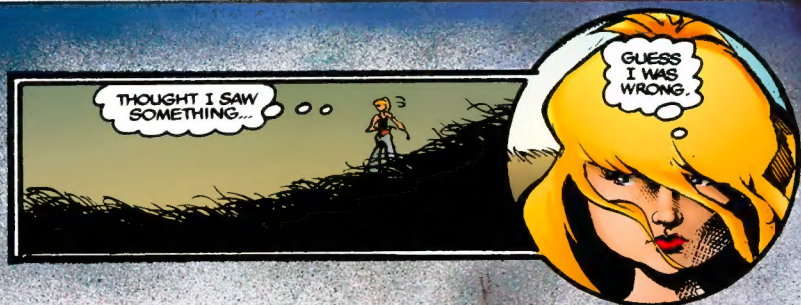
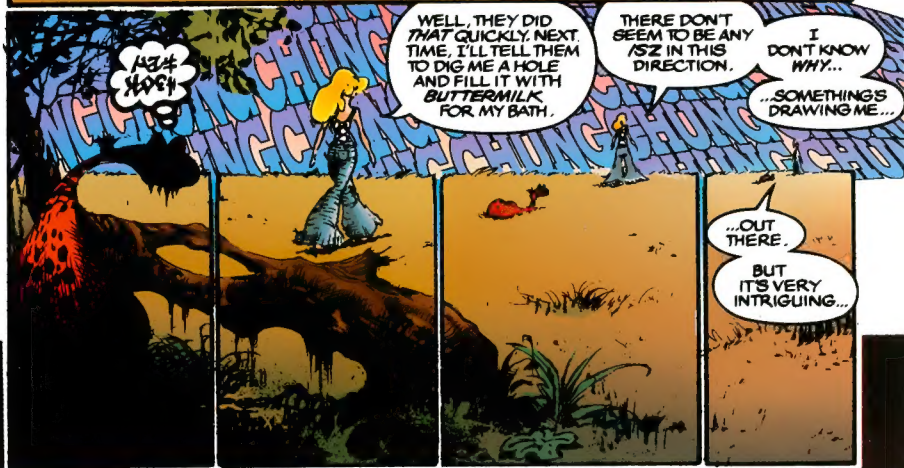
ISZ  
LOTS'A  
THEM.



EVEN AT THAT  
SIZE A BILLION  
OF THEM C'D  
SMOTHER US!  
YOU GUYS RUN  
FOR THAT  
CLIFF!

DON'T WORRY  
ABOUT ME. I'LL  
STAY RIGHT...





THE ELMER A. CRAFT  
HIGH SCHOOL ART  
DEPARTMENT.

I HATE  
INVENTORY,  
I HATE MRS.  
BRUSSLES.

ONE STUPID BOX...  
TWO STUPID BOXES...  
THREE...

LIFE  
SUCKS,  
HUH?

HI, SARAH. I'M A  
MAGIC PIECE OF  
TALKING CLAY.

DOWN  
HERE,  
KIDDO.

RIGHT.

NO.  
REALLY.

I CAN HELP  
YOU IF YOU  
SNEAK ME INTO  
JULIE WINTERS'  
HOUSE.

YOU  
KNOW  
ABOUT  
JULIE?

YOU MUST  
GET AROUND FOR  
A PIECE OF CLAY.

WELL,  
YEAH...FOR  
A PIECE OF  
CLAY.

WHY SHOULD  
I BETRAY JULIE  
FOR YOU?

"I THINK IT'S  
PRETTY IMPORTANT  
FOR A WRITER TO  
KNOW JUST HOW  
ROTTEN SHE CAN  
BE..."

GET OUT  
OF MY HEAD!

CLAY

YOU'LL BE  
BACK...AND WE  
CAN TALK AND PLAY  
GAMES, I DON'T  
KNOW...





AND ON THE STAIRWELL LEADING TO JULIE WINTERS' APARTMENT...

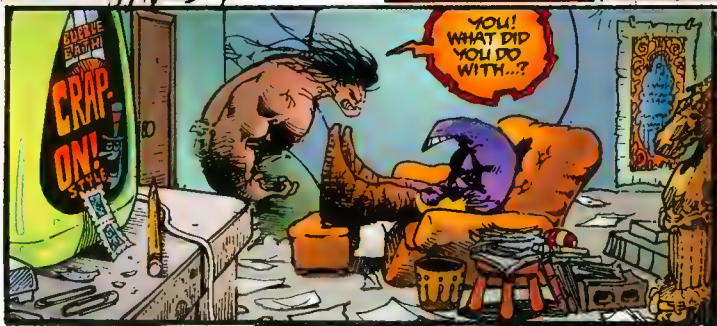
TIMMY.



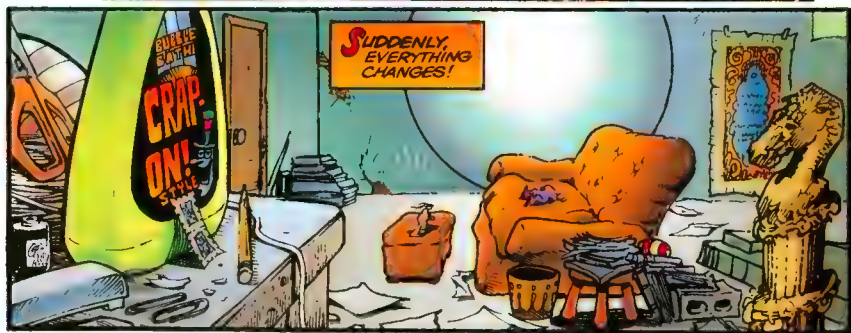
TIMMY... WAIT.



TIMMY... WHERE DID YOU GO...?



YOU! WHAT DID YOU DO WITH...?



SUDDENLY, EVERYTHING CHANGES!



I AM THE  
MAXX! HE WHO  
IS PROTECTOR  
OF THIS LAND!



AND YOU ARE A  
POWERFULLY BUILT STRANGER  
WHO HAS COME TO CHALLENGE  
MAXX, FOR WE ARE THE  
TWO BIGGEST CREATURES  
IN THIS WORLD!

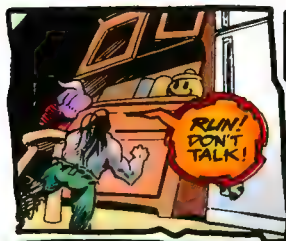


GUESS  
AGAIN.

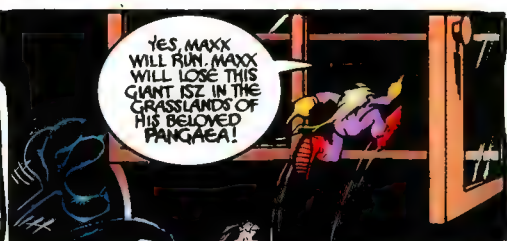
ANY  
CLUE AS  
TO WHO  
THIS GUY  
IS?

HE WOULD  
BE AN ISZ, EXCEPT  
THEY ARE SMALL, AND  
LIVE UNDERGROUND  
AND ONLY ATTACK IN  
GROUPS, AND ARE  
COLORED LIGHT  
GRAY AND...





RUN!  
DON'T  
TALK!



YES, MAXX  
WILL RUN. MAXX  
WILL LOSE THIS  
GIANT ISZ IN THE  
GRASSLANDS OF  
HIS BELOVED  
PANGAEA!



MAXX WILL  
RACE ACROSS  
THESE CLIFFS AND  
PLATEAUS, LEAPING  
LIKE A POWERFUL  
GOATFROG!



STAY! MAXX  
WILL LEAD THE  
MONSTER AWAY  
WITH HIS  
WILDERNESS  
CUNNING!



**BOP!**



RIGHT.  
LIKE THAT'S  
REALLY GONNA  
HAPPEN!



I KNOW  
YOU'RE STILL  
OUT THERE,  
MAXX. I CAN  
HEAR YOU  
MOVING  
AROUND.

YOU  
BETTER BE  
OUT THERE,  
MAXX.

SO, DO YOU  
BRING ALL YOUR  
DATES TO THIS  
ABANDONED OVER-  
PASS, SARAH?

HEH.  
HEH...

JUST  
KIDDING.

LOOK, JUST  
BECAUSE I BROUGHT  
YOU OUT HERE  
DOESN'T MEAN I'M  
GONNA BETRAY  
HER.

WHAT MAKES  
YOU THINK I WANT  
TO HURT HER?  
MAYBE I JUST  
WANT TO BE HER  
FRIEND.

YEAH.  
RIGHT.

WELL, I  
KNEW THAT  
WOULDN'T  
FLY.

OKAY, LET'S  
CUT THE DRAP.  
SARAH, YOU GET  
ME IN THAT  
HOUSE AND I  
CAN GET YOU--

SHUT UP!  
STOP SCREWING  
WITH MY HEAD!

I KNOW THINGS,  
SARAH. I KNOW  
ABOUT THE LATITUDE  
AND LONGITUDE OF  
PEOPLE. I KNOW  
ABOUT THE SECRET  
FAULT LINES OF  
THEIR SOULS.

SEE,  
SARAH  
EVERYBODY  
SNAPS.  
LOOK AT  
YOU... TALKING  
TO A PIECE OF  
CLAY.

AND  
EVERYBODY HAS  
A SPIRIT FRIEND  
WHO HELPS THEM  
OVER THE ROUGH  
SPOTS.

AN ANIMAL  
USUALLY.

YOURS MIGHT  
BE A HORSE. A  
HUGE, SPIRITED  
ARABIAN!

I CAN SEE HIM  
NOW, PASSING LIKE  
FIRE THROUGH THE  
MAGNETIC WALL THAT  
YOU'VE BUILT AROUND  
YOUR SOUL.

IT'S BUILT OF ALL  
THE MEAN, NASTY,  
NEGATIVE THINGS PEOP-  
LE HAVE SAID ABOUT  
YOU. THEY'RE JUST  
IDEAS, WORDS. YOU  
HEAR THEM LONG  
ENOUGH, AND EVENTU-  
ALLY YOU BUY IT.

BUT SUPPOSE YOU  
KNOW HOW TO FIND  
YOUR ANIMAL. THEN IT  
WILL TEACH YOU HOW  
TO NAVIGATE THROUGH  
LIFE, HOW TO

TEAR

DOWN

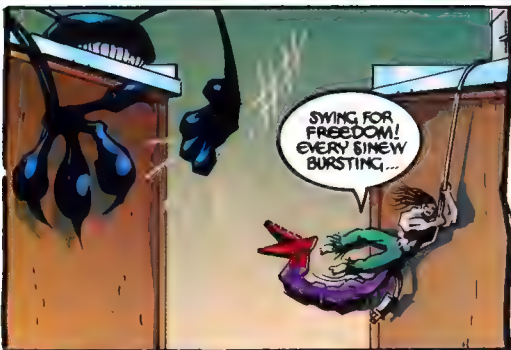
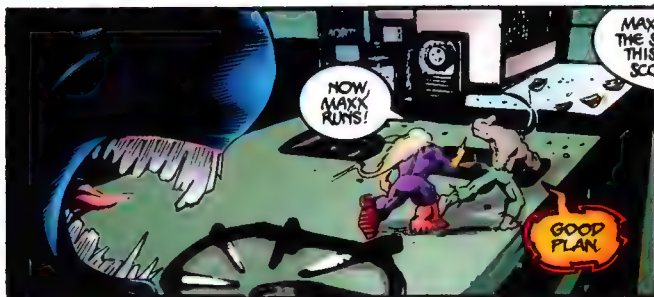
THAT

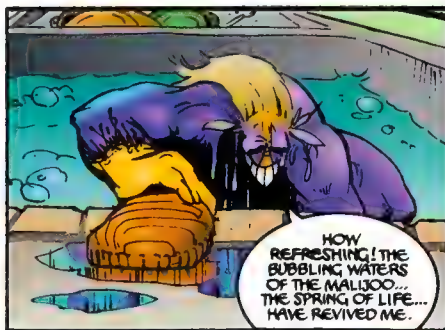
WALL!

SO WHEN  
DO WE GO TO  
JULIE'S?

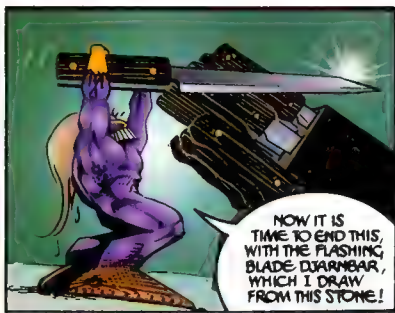
I CAN LEAD  
YOU RIGHT TO  
THAT HORSE,  
SARAH.



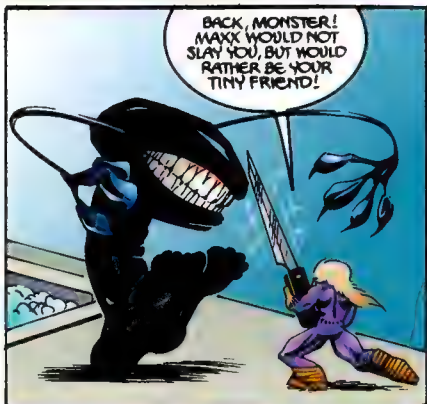




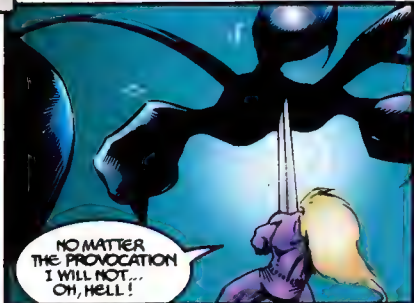
HOW  
REFRESHING! THE  
BUBBLING WATERS  
OF THE MALJOO...  
THE SPRING OF LIFE...  
HAVE REVIVED ME.



NOW IT IS  
TIME TO END THIS,  
WITH THE FLASHING  
BLADE DJARNBAR,  
WHICH I DRAW  
FROM THIS STONE!



BACK, MONSTER!  
MAXX WOULD NOT  
SLAY YOU, BUT WOULD  
RATHER BE YOUR  
TINY FRIEND!



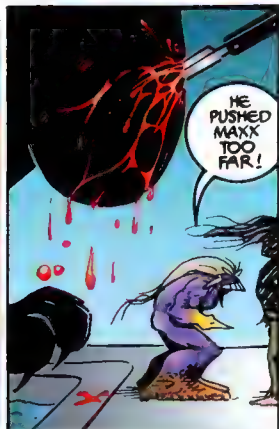
NO MATTER  
THE PROVOCATION  
I WILL NOT...  
OH, HELL!



EAT  
STEEL!



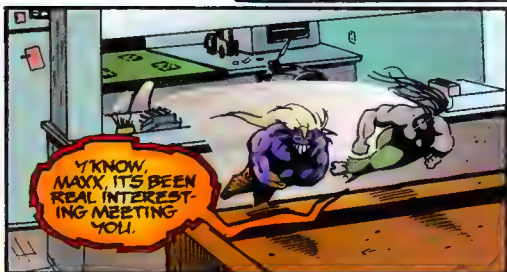
BAD  
ISZ!



HE  
PUSHED  
MAXX  
TOO FAR!

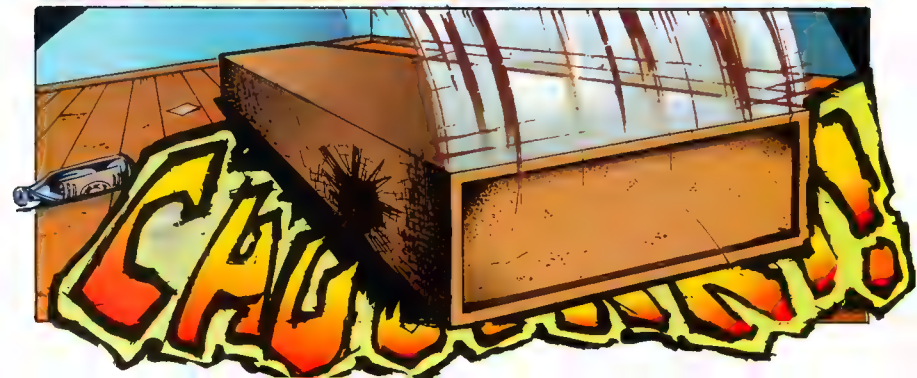
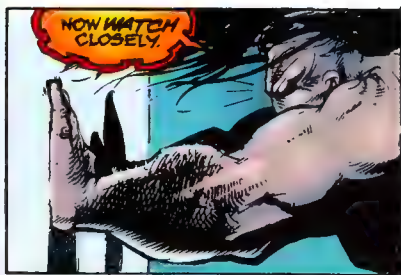


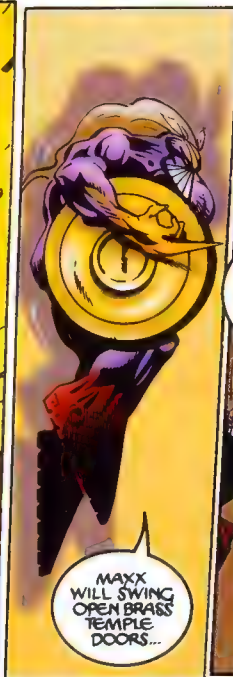
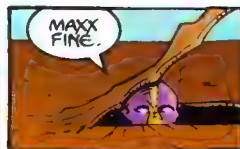
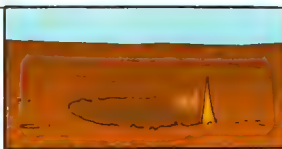
WILL  
YOU  
RUN?



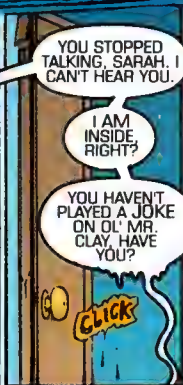
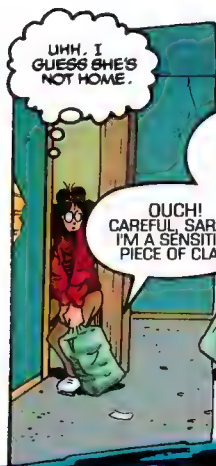
Y'KNOW,  
MAXX, IT'S BEEN  
REAL INTEREST-  
ING MEETING  
YOU.











I AM INSIDE, RIGHT?

YOU HAVEN'T PLAYED A JOKE ON OL' MR. CLAY, HAVE YOU?

CLICK



WHAT A FUNNY  
LITTLE HOUSE! JUST  
LIKE THE ONE I MADE  
OUT OF CLAY AND  
POPSICLE STICKS  
WHEN I WAS A  
LITTLE GIRL!

POPSICLE  
STICKS



SHE'S  
STARTING TO  
REMEMBER!  
NOT NOW!! IT'S  
TOO SOON!

IF WE ALL  
RETURN TO  
"NORMAL,"  
I'LL PROBABLY  
END UP WITH  
OUT A HEAD!

BUT IF I  
NAIL THAT  
THING WITH  
A POISON  
DART...

...IT'LL  
BUY ME  
SOME  
TIME.







I REMEMBER  
NOW! I WAS A JUN-  
GLE QUEEN! RULER  
OF A VAST DOMAIN!  
AND WHENEVER  
EVIL APPEARED I  
WOULD FIGHT IT.

IT'S  
JUST LIKE  
I REMEMBER  
IT!

NO!  
NO!  
NO!



AND I HAD  
A PET BUNNY.  
BUT HE DIED.

SO?  
MOM!

NO TIME  
LEFT! I HAVE  
TO DO IT  
NOW!

SUDDENLY...

0415  
0415

0415  
0415



AND ELSEWHERE...

PITT!  
PULL ME UP.  
PITT!

THERE ARE  
A LOT OF ISZES  
DOWN THERE, PITT.  
DON'T JUST STARE  
AT THEM! PULL  
ME UP!

TIMMY,  
THEY ARE ALL...  
TIMMY...

BUT...  
WHERE ARE  
TIMMYS...

...EYES?

WHAT?  
SNAP OUT  
OF IT,  
PITT!



GRAB MY  
HAND! PULL ME  
UP! DON'T JUST  
STAND THERE  
SAYING  
"TIMMY!"

KILL!

TO BE CONCLUDED NEXT ISSUE!  
**THE BURNING,  
BARBED RING  
OF MEMORY!**





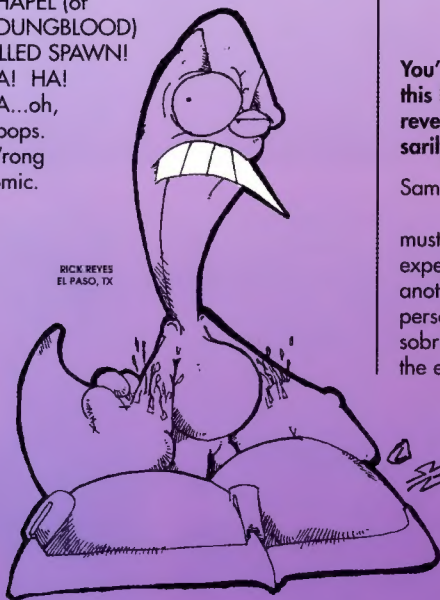
## Maxx Traxx #7

Mike "Funkydetailmeister" Taylor did some work in Issue #6, but was left off the credits...Sorry, Mike!  
Maxx cards are out. Check 'em out!  
Good feedback on the Crappon sequence in Ish 5. A sample:  
"...really cool!" (Ben Saylor)  
"...neat and weird" (Joe Marmon)  
"...original" (Cory Baker)  
"...wacky...bent" (Michael Springstead)  
Thanxx, Dave and Bill!

HAHAHAHA!

Yes! I've FINALLY figured it ALL out! The SECRETS, the INTRIGUE, it FINALLY makes SENSE NOW! HA!  
YES! I have you RIGHT where I want you! HAHAHAHA! Because I've FIGURED IT OUT! YES! I KNOW THAT CHAPEL (of YOUNGBLOOD) KILLED SPAWN!  
HA! HA!  
HA...oh, woops. Wrong comic.

RICK REYES  
EL PASO, TX



Sorry.  
Hee Hee.  
Oh well.  
Came close, right?  
Hmm.

Sincerely,  
Charles Choi  
Flushing, New York

Mr. Kieth,

Let me see if I've gotten this straight...The Maxx's real face is made up of loosely knit beans. Beans! If this is the kind of stuff Loeb's feels he must write, then I think it's time for him to kick on an old Eagles album and think about writing The Maxx Meets Wardrum, or whoever that frontier guy he used to do is (Journey?).

The Maxx #5...More fun than watching Nell Carter work out to Cindy Crawford!!

Thank You,  
Toby Mays  
Eureka, CA

**You're just going to have to trust me on this bean stuff. Everything will be revealed by the end (but it won't necessarily be any less confusing...)**

Sam,

After reading THE MAXX #5, I must at once accuse you of at least experimenting with drugs at one time or another - namely, hallucinogens. No person who has led a life of continuous sobriety could have possibly extracted the experiences of THE MAXX from their own mind. Very impressive.

As far as I know, the first and only successful documentation of the extreme paranoia that can occur is with acid trips, for the ultimate

terror lies within the Self, a theme which you have excellently presented.

A well-earned  
reader.  
Matt Pulver  
Temple City, CA

KEVIN FLANAGAN  
UPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Sam,  
I've read every issue of  
MAXX and I can honestly  
say...what the hell is going on?  
Am I the only one who's confused?

Tom Blasingame  
Ft. Smith, AR

P.S. The book is great; ABBA sucks.  
**When I first read your letter, I didn't  
want to print it because you're not  
alone. Many people are confused after  
reading THE MAXX (to quote the great  
Todd McFarlane, "Huh?"). It made me  
sad and I feared I was a bad storyteller,  
that no one likes me, and that I will die  
penniless, homeless, and ten pounds  
overweight. But denial ain't just a river  
in Egypt. Before long, I bounced back  
and am now thoroughly convinced that  
those who don't understand my stories  
are full of wee-wee.**

Dear Sam,

Congratulations! You must have  
one of the most simultaneously weird and  
thought-provoking lettercols in the biz.  
Who needs the McLaughlin Group when  
you have MAXX TRAXX. The only draw-  
back being that now I'm going to have to  
read Paglia's books, which I haven't  
been able to do because they're out at  
the library, and there's no way I'm  
going to shell out money for  
them...with all due respect to Ms.  
Paglia, Mr. Limbaugh, etc. I think  
opinions are much like sex in this  
way: why pay if you can get it for  
free?

But I digress. Back to what I origi-  
nally wanted to write to you about. I'd  
like to applaud your handling of the  
story. I think it's absolutely amazing -  
your control of it. Considering your

mail, or at least the fraction of it that gets  
published, a lesser writer might be tempt-  
ed to prematurely resolve the  
many issues that you drummed  
up at the expense of the  
story. I have only recently  
become acquainted with  
your work (MAXX #1), so I  
was expecting this. So when  
it hadn't happened after  
MAXX #4 (the wait for which  
was truly excruciating, hint, hint), I

was elated. You managed to tell a story,  
just tell a story, and a very good one at  
that, which is so rare and in lesser hands  
might have produced a sterile, uninvolv-  
ing, turkey of a tale. But what you do is  
the polar opposite. You had better be  
proud. Keep up the great work.

Respect and regards,  
Sledge Hammer  
Kirkwood, MO

**Gee, I wish I'd read this letter before  
the others - I wouldn't have needed so  
much dee-ny-ul.**

Dear SAMurai,

I just got MAXXimum Sound and it  
was sooo killer. I loved it. THE MAXX  
translates extremely well to tape. The  
sound and voices were all great except  
for one thing: Maxx's voice. It just  
doesn't work well. Sorry. But I have  
found a solution! If MAXXimum Sound is  
played while using the High-Speed  
Dubbing function on a stereo, Maxx's  
voice is transformed into one of The  
Chipmunks with gravel stuck in his throat.

Trust me. It is so cool!  
Just try it





out. It sounds great! Really!

Sincerely,

John Son

Redondo Beach, CA

P.S. Maxx's high-speed voice is best when he says "Crap", "Damn", and "Eat droppings".

DAVE QUIGGLE  
ERIE, PA

Dear Mr. Kieth,

I didn't pick up Marvel Comics Presents because it wasn't a #1. Then I saw it...THE MAXX #1!

"Weird," I thought. Then,

"Hey! It's that one guy with the funny autograph who does big feet". I

bought it and read it. "A new world just opened," I thought.

It was then that I realized that a #1 issue isn't worth jack squat if I don't like the story.

On another note, MAXIMUM SOUND RULES!!!! I got it much earlier than you said I would, and that's cool. IT ROCKS!!! I loved Maxx's and Mr. Gone's voice. AWESOME!!!! Julie wasn't what I expected. SO WHAT!?!?!? I love the way the Isz sound. MEEP!!!

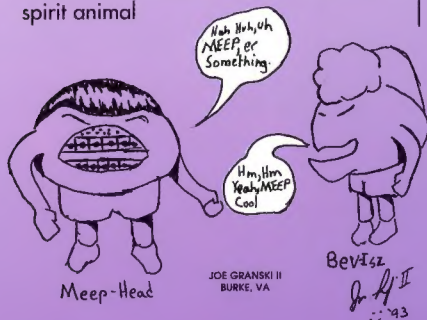
Adam Carey

Lenexa, KS

**Thanks for your cool letter, but I left out the part where you whined about not getting the glow.**

Dear Mr. Kieth,

Is that Calvin and Hobbes in Issue #6 in THE MAXX? If it is, I have a few comments to make. Hobbes is Calvin's spirit animal



(in a sense) and Julie has a spirit animal, but it has not yet been revealed to us what that is. I think that you are comparing Calvin and Hobbes with Julie and Maxx (making Maxx Julie's spirit animal).

Sincerely,

Calvin V. Poysky

I.H.B., FL

**This letter makes me think, which is something I'm generally against. But since you brought it up, Maxx as Julie's spirit animal - that sounds pretty close. Very close, actually. But even though I tried, I just can't see the resemblance to C and H, and if you're a loyal Maxx-head, you will see any references to persons (or animals) living or dead as purely coincidental, right? Have I over-explained this enough?**

Dear Mr. God-like Kieth,

I am sitting in my art class with my friends. We have to do a cheezy project on our favorite artists. And of course, not being an artist but a god, I picked MR. SAM KIETH, while others pick feeble pawns in the art world like Picasso, Van Gogh, and Georgia O'Keefe. My beautiful friend Lindsey is concerned about what I am doing. But I calmly stated that I am starting a cult in your name.

After reading the letters in the back of THE MAXX #6, I totally agree with Jason M. Fox of Henderson, Kentucky. Maxx needs a Pez dispenser. Yes, a Pez dispenser. Not only would it be super mondo rad, but people who do not grasp The Maxx can comfort that. Even though they do not read Maxx and don't understand it, they can still eat little flavored candies from his head. Oh please, Oh please, Oh please give us a Maxx Pez Dispenser.

Your worthy follower,  
Blake Myers  
Buford, GA

Dear Mr. Kieth,  
I'd like to say The Maxx Pez dispenser idea would never work. If you ever tried to get the candy by touching Maxx's mask and flipping it up, it would bite your finger off and would give the play-by-play while you bleed to death. Have a nice day.

Sincerely,  
Ranger Joe  
Genoa, IL

**Gee, I never thought of that. I'm not sure even PEZ is worth losing a finger over...**

Mr. Kieth,

I am writing in defense of the Total Maxx Fan who got his letter published in THE MAXX #3. I am here to tell The Sandman and Ken Wiatrek (Issue #6) that I too have no idea who Franzetta or Paglia are. Nor do I care who these Feminists are. All of you are being a bit hard on him, so I'm coming out of the closet to say that I'm as illiterate as he. To be perfectly honest, I attend Mohawk College in Hamilton, ONT. and still have never heard of them. Please stop bashing this poor guy because, as you can see, he's not alone. The rest of you out there, come out of the closet and announce your illiteracy.

Not afraid to sign his name,  
Robert Fisher

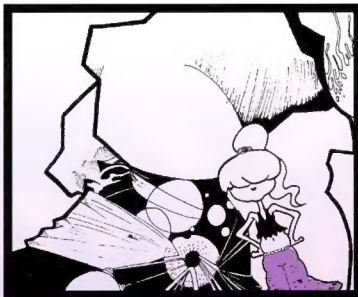
Dear Sam,

You know when you had Julie strapped up in Issue #2? I know why you did it. I know why, but don't worry - I won't tell.

Your blackmailer,  
Stephen Smith  
Roxboro, NC

P.S. I'm just trying to get in your comic book.

**P.S. It worked.**



ERIC SPELLMAN  
TAYLORSVILLE, MS

Dear Sam,  
ABBA sucks.  
Disco is Satan.  
The 60's are dead.  
Peace is old-fashioned.  
Bellbottoms, though.  
Maxx is.  
I love you, Julie.  
Pez...

Coolage,  
Brian William  
Covington, VA

Dear Sam,

How can THE MAXX glue his claws shut (Issue #6), but still have them stiff enough to be able to stab things with them?

Joe Granski II  
Burke, VA

**Gee, glue always make ME stiff...**

BRYAN SHINN

